



State Representative Toni Boucher

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you in the House of Representatives in Hartford.

Enclosed are some highlights of the 2006 legislative session, along with some unfinished business that should be addressed as soon as possible. Also, I was pleased to help secure grants of \$250,000 for the Kristine Lilly soccer field resurfacing and \$500,000 for the Maritime Aquarium.

If you have suggestions on issues that you would like proposed for next year, please be sure to forward them to me. As always, I look forward to assisting with any state related or consumer issues that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments, suggestions or concerns.

Very best wishes to you and your family for a happy and safe summer season.

Sincerely,



Representative Boucher speaks during debate on legislation in the state House of Representatives.



State Representative

TONI BOUCHER

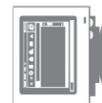
Proudly Serving the 143rd District

Wilton ★ Norwalk

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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative

TONI BOUCHER

Proudly Serving the 143rd District

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Rep. Boucher receives an award from Connecticut Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association, in addition to honors from Drug Free America and the National Legislator Award from Drug Free Schools Coalition.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help families save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. Following are some of the highlights:

Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag behind the nation in new jobs and economic growth. As a result, I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that put Connecticut at a competitive disadvantage with other states. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated, and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies in Connecticut.

To promote the growth of small microbusinesses and emerging industries, new legislation will promote innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, provide funds for small business incubators, and create programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level of matter.

For the Environment

Under a Clean Cars bill, the state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models. Also, new legislation will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

For Transportation

At my urging, the state will begin upgrading the Danbury branch commuter line through Wilton and Norwalk. Water and restroom facilities will be added at the Cannondale Station. With my strong support, the legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include more commuter rail service, stations and parking facilities and removal of I-95 bottlenecks.

For Property Owners

The legislature created an Ombudsman for Property Rights to help property owners with eminent domain disputes. That is a start, but I supported stronger legislation to restrict governmental ability to take private property for economic development.

For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters, just as if called up for national service. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

For Children, Education

I continued the fight for more state aid for local public schools under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. Good news is that families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). With my support, the legislature approved \$875 million in local school construction reimbursements including increased grants for reauthorized projects.

State Budget

Adjustments were made to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The budget provides \$245.7 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System, \$85.5 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to the towns and at least \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns and other emergencies.

Grants to towns increase by \$115.5 million to \$2.557 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. Aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. Taxpayers can take a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing 2006 state income returns, up from \$400. A \$1-million program for adults with autism also is authorized.

To reform or repeal the Connecticut estate tax that was reimposed in 2005, I cosponsored several amendments on the House floor. They were rejected by the Democratic majority.

LEGISLATION ON UNFINISHED ISSUES

The legislative majority declined to take action on many important issues, which must be at the top of the agenda for the next legislative session. They include:

- Eminent domain reform, limiting the power of government to take private property for economic development projects
- Eliminating the the annual car tax as Gov. Rell proposed
- Reform or repeal of the Connecticut estate tax that was reinstated retroactive to January 1, 2005.
- Action to address health care costs for small business, which are identified as one of the major problems for business in the state.

CONTACT STATE GOVERNMENT

If you need more information on state government, here are some state websites.

Consumer Protection	www.ct.gov/dcp
Consumer Counsel	www.ct.gov/occ
Advocacy for Disabled	www.ct.gov/opapd
Insurance Dept	www.ct.gov/cid
Public Utilities	www.state.ct.us/dpuc
Banking Department	www.state.ct.us/dob
Revenue Services	www.ct.gov/drs

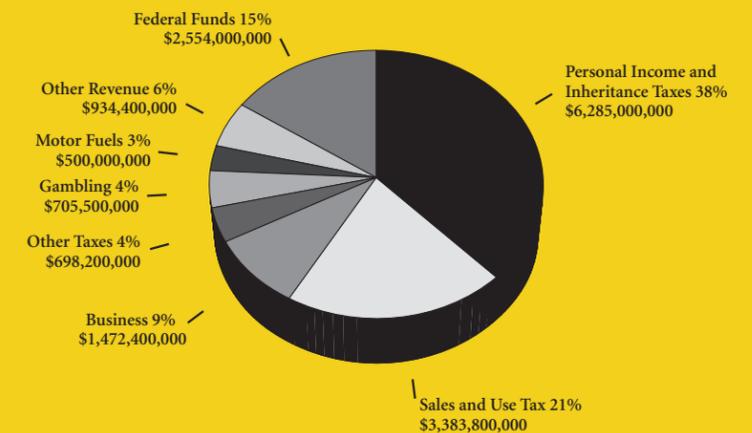
Underage Drinking

The legislature made it illegal to knowingly permit a minor other than one's own child to illegally possess alcohol on his or her property or fail to make reasonable efforts to stop the possession of alcohol on the property by a minor he or she knows possesses alcohol illegally. Authorities cannot enter your home without a legal search warrant. The bill makes a first offense an infraction. Subsequent offenses will be subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both. It becomes effective October 1, 2006.

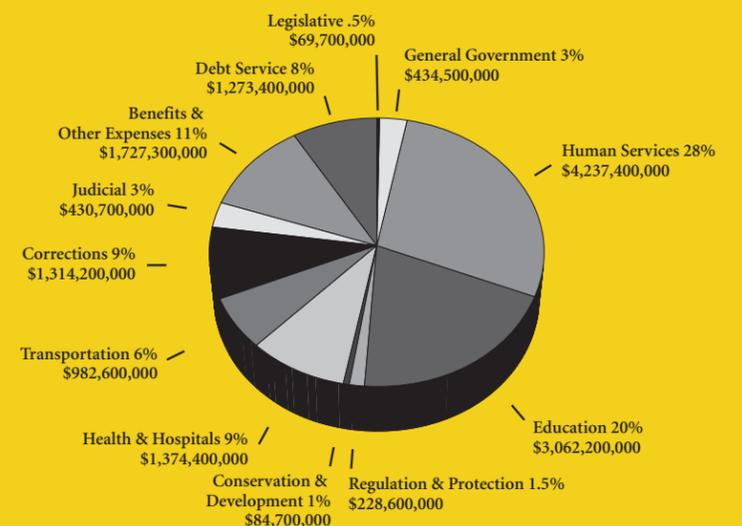
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.